GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:521
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2009
DEMAND FOR CALAMITY RELIEF
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request for release of Rs. 1000 crores has been received by the Government from the State of Himachal Pradesh for calamity relief;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c): Financial assistance in the wake of natural calamities is provided as per the Scheme of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Under the Scheme, a CRF has been constituted for each State, as ready availability of funds, which is contributed by the Government of India and State Government in the ratio of 75:25. Additional financial assistance is also extended from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the event of a natural calamity of a severe nature,in accordance with the established procedure, when the fund available in CRF account is inadequate.

An amount of Rs. 109.87 crore has been allocated to the State in CRF for the year 2008-09 consisting of Rs. 82.40 crore as Central contribution and Rs. 27.47 crore as State contribution. The 1st installment of the Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 41.20 crore was released to the State, on 3rd June 2008.On the request of the State Government, this Ministry has also released, in advance, 2nd instalment of the Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 41.20 crore on 22nd September 2008, which otherwise was due for release in December, 2008, to the Government of Himachal Pradesh pending receipt of utilization certificate and Annual Report.

Further keeping in view the damage caused by the flood! landslide during 2008, Government of India has released Rs. 50.00 crore as advance(Rs. 21.2275 crore as advance release of Central share of CRF for the year 2009-10 and Rs. 28.7725 crore `on account` release from NCCF).

The State Government of Himachal Pradesh had projected a requirement of additional Central assistance of Rs. 1616.00 crore from NCCF for relief operations in the areas affected by floods/landslides during the year 2008. The request of the State Government was considered by the High Level Committee(HLC) in its meeting held on 05.02.2009, after taking into consideration the memorandum, report of the Central Team, recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group and the norms and guidelines for expenditure from CRF/ NCCF, approved the assistance of
(i) Rs. 93.42 crore from NCCF subject to adjustment of 75% of balances available in the CRF account for instant calamities and
(ii) Rs. 6.00 crore from Special Component of the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).